GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:328
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
DECLINE IN PRICE OF POTATO
Chakraborty Shri Ajay;Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of potatoes in markets have declined heavily leading to heavy losses to farmers who failed to even recover the costs of production;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to arrest the trend and ensure remunerative price to the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(c): The movement of monthly Wholesale Price Index for potatoes from January 2008 to September 2008 shows that the prices of potato have decreased from January, 2008 to June 2008 and thereafter continued to increase. This is given below.

Wholesale Price Index for Potatoes January 2008 to September 2008 (1993-94=100)

	January	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.
Potato	246.7	216.6	226.1	214.9	214.1	211.3	231.0	231.7	241.5

Prices of potato fluctuate depending upon the availability and demand for potato.Prices decrease when new crop arrives in the market. Cost of production of potato in Himachal Pradesh,which is highest in the country, is reducing over the years from Rs.666.43 per Quintal in 2002-03 to Rs. 483.40 per Quintal in 2005-06.